

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 076476

43

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:GECHAFIN:GMR

APPROVED BY ARA:WDROGERS

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

H - K. JENKINS(DRAFT)

----- 117742

O 041703Z APR 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076476

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECIN, EGEN, EC

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO GOE ON TIMING OF TRA AMENDMENT

REFS: A) QUITO 2279

B) STATE 56441

FOR AMBASSADOR BREWSTER FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. IN MY CARACAS CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ, I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT THE FORM OF AN OPEC SOLUTION WOULD BE CLEAR BEFORE THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING, I.E. THE TEXT OF AMENDING LEGISLATION WOULD BE IN HAND AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WOULD BE ON RECORD AS SUPPORTING IT. THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATION, I STUCK CLOSELY TO THE WORDING OF ACTING SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S STATEMENT AT THE CIES MEETING (SEE REFTEL B). I MENTIONED THAT WE EXPECTED RESOLUTION OF THE QUESTION WELL BEFORE OUR SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES GOES INTO EFFECT THIS FALL.

2. RODRIGUEZ, IF QUOTED CORRECTLY IN THE EL UNIVERSO  
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PAGE 02 STATE 076476

INTERVIEW, WAS INCORRECT IN SAYING THAT I SUGGESTED THAT

THE LAW MIGHT BE AMENDED BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IN WASHINGTON.

3. THE DIFFERENCE, HOWEVER, IS INCONSEQUENTIAL FOR HIS PURPOSES. IN OTHER WORDS, PRIOR TO THE OASGA, AND HOPEFULLY EVEN BEFORE THE SECRETARY DEPARTS FOR SOUTH AMERICA, THE APPROPRIATE BILL WILL HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED IN THE CONGRESS, AND THE EXECUTIVE WILL HAVE PROCLAIMED ITS SUPPORT FOR THAT BILL. THE FACT THAT CONGRESS' PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES REQUIRE SEVERAL WEEKS FOR DELIBERATION BEFORE CONGRESS VOTES AND THE PRESIDENT SIGNS THE LAW IS ACADEMIC. THE AMENDMENT WILL, WE BELIEVE, BE A PART OF THE TRADE LAW BEFORE THE PREFERENCE SYSTEM ACTUALLY BECOMES EFFECTIVE.

4. YOU MAY WISH ALSO TO SAY TO RODRIGUEZ THAT THERE IS WIDESPREAD BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT IN BOTH HOUSES FOR THIS LEGISLATION.

5. ONLY SOME INTEMPERATE INITIATIVES FROM QUITO AND/OR CARACAS COULD DERAIL THE PROCEDURE WE HAVE NOW CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED AND SET IN MOTION. INGERSOLL

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